PREFIXES & SUFFIXES



Your students will become master word builders with these vocabulary-expanding prefix and suffix activities By Pamela Chanko

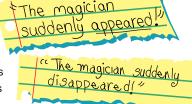
Wall-of-Words Construction Site

Students will love putting on their hard hats and literally building words at this interactive learning center. To prepare, write out a variety of prefixes and suffixes on square-shaped blocks, and base or root words on rectangular blocks. Use masking-tape labels if needed. Try to include words that will not require spelling changes when suffixes are added (such as stand, feel, enjoy, appear, and so on). Students can start building by arranging a few blocks in a row to form the wall's "base" - the trick is that the sides of the "bricks" must form a word! (For instance, un-enjoy-able or dis-appearance.) Ask students to continue to add layers to the wall, using rows of two bricks (feel-ing), three bricks (under-stand-able), or even four bricks (misunder-stand-ing; un-feel-ing-ly). Have students build a new wall each day, or challenge them to keep adding to the wall of words until it topples!

Antonym Antics

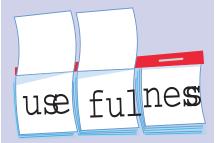
Explain to students that some prefixes (such as dis-, mis-, im-, in-, and un-) have "magical" powers—they can change a word into its opposite! Next, divide the class into teams and provide each with several sentence strips. Have each team collaborate to write a simple sentence that includes at least one underlined adjective or verb on each strip. For example: I am very happy today; I agree with you; I tied my shoes. Work with students to make sure

their adjectives and verbs can take antonym prefixes. Next, have teams exchange their strips. It's the other team's job to add the correct prefix to the underlined word, changing the sentence meaning to its opposite. Teams can exchange strips again to check one another's work.



Word-Builder Flip Books

Invite students to create new words with these special flip books. For each book, stack six strips of paper horizontally, staple across the top, and cut into three sections as shown. On the board, write prefixes (dis-, re-, un-, mis-), base or root words (agree, use, happy, help, read), and suffixes (-able, -ful, -less, -/y). Then ask students to choose



six base words to write in the center section of their books (one on each page), five prefixes for the left-hand pages, and five suffixes for the right-hand pages. (Leave one page blank on each side.) Next, show students how to flip the pages back and forth to create two-part words (disagree, helpful) and three-part words (disagreeable, unhelpful). Point out that some new words may require spelling changes (for instance, in *unhappily*, the y in happy changes to i). Have students add their favorite new words to a personal word bank or class word wall (see "Wall of Words," above).

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Find a Partner, Form a Word

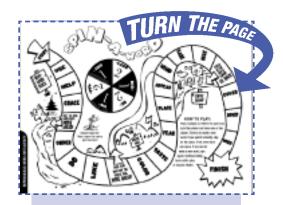
Here's a quick and easy way for students to practice word-building during transition times-try it whenever you need them to find partners for a classroom activity. To prepare, label sticky notes with prefixes, suffixes, and base or root words. Make sure each sticky note will have at least one wordforming match, such as under/stand, im/polite, use/ful, end/less, and so on. Place all the notes in a paper bag and let each student pick one and attach it to his or her shirt. Then have students mingle around the room and try to find another student with whom they can form a new word. When they find their "match," student pairs can say the new word together.

Base-Word Bingo

Students can play this game in small groups, or you can stage a bingo blowout for the entire class. To prepare, provide students with blank, nine-square bingo game boards. Next, write some prefixes and suffixes on index cards and place these in a paper bag. On the board, write out a variety of base or root words, including adjectives (angry,

	eword	Bingo	+
Angry	Glad	Care	•
		<u>Careful</u>	
Sad	Beauty	Help	
<u>Sadness</u>			
Create	Lead	Friend	
	 Leader		
	reager		

sad, glad), verbs (help, create, lead) and nouns (friend, beauty, care). Next, ask students to choose any of the words and write one in each square of their bingo boards. To play, have a volunteer "caller" pick a random card from the bag and read it aloud. Students look at their boards and try to make a new word by adding the prefix or suffix to one of their base words and writing it below. Remind students to include any necessary spelling changes (they can use a dictionary for reference). Play continues until one student has a full board of new words and shouts "Bingo!" The class can work together to check the player's words and spelling.



Spin-a-Word Game (Using the Reproducible)

Students can practice forming and spelling new words with the board game Reproducible on page 52. Make one copy of the game for each group of two to four players (you can laminate the board or glue it to card stock for durability). To make a spinner, place a paper clip under a pencil point and spin. Give each group scratch paper, pencils, game markers, and a dictionary. Then share the following rules:

- 1. Place all the markers on START and choose a player to go first.
- 2. Spin the spinner, and move either one or two spaces depending on what it says.
- 3. Read the base word on the space. Can you add the prefix or suffix on the spinner to the base word to form a new word? If not. you can take more spins until you are able to form a word with that prefix or suffix.
- 4. Once you think you can form a word, write it on scratch paper, including any needed spelling changes. If the group agrees that you made a word and spelled it correctly, stay on the space. If not, move back one space. (Groups can use a dictionary for reference.)
- 5. Continue taking turns until one player reaches FINISH. That's the winner! Then put your markers back on START and play again.

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Prefix & Suffix Dictionary

Use these prefixes and suffixes throughout the unit. Then make copies for students.

PREFIXES

A prefix is added to the beginning of a base or root word to change its meaning.

PREFIX	MEANING
anti-	against, opposite
bi-	two
CO-	together
dis-	the opposite of
extra-	beyond
im-	not
mid-	middle
mis-	wrong
multi-	many
over-	too much
pre-	before
re-	back, again
semi-	half
un-	not, reverse of
under-	below

SUFFIXES

A suffix is added to the end of a base word to change its meaning or part of speech.

NOUN SUFFIX	MEANING
-ance, -ence	state of being
-ant, -ent, -er, -or,	
-ian, -ist	one who
-ion, -tion	act of, result of
-ment	act of
-ness	quality of being

ADJECTIVE

SUFFIX	MEANING
-able, -ible	able to be
-er	more
-est	most
-ive, -ous, -y	having the quality of
-ish	like
-ful	full of
-less	doesn't have

ADVERB SUFFIX MEANING

-lvfullywise	in the manner of
-iviulivvviac	ווו נווכ ווומוווכו טו

VERB SUFFIX	MEANING
-ate, -ify, -ize	make or do
-ing	in the process of doing

Put Your Suffixes to Work!

We use many different suffixes to talk about the jobs people do: -ant, -ent, -er, -or, -ian, and -ist all mean a person who when added to a verb or noun. Help children practice their occupational suffixes with this

activity. Invite each student to create a "want ad" describing a particular job. Have students include a base verb or noun as a clue in their ad, for example: Our school needs people to lead classes. If you like to teach, apply now! Post the ads on a bulletin board and invite students to "apply" for jobs they want. In their

responses, students should use the appropriate suffix. For example: *I* want to be a teacher at your school. When the job board becomes full, discuss with students which suffixes were added to which base words to create the job titles (conduct/conductor, paint/painter, piano/pianist, and so on).

Island Right

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